



The HPD News

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A Message From Your Patrol Chiefs

North Patrol Command

The patrol function today is more complex and intriguing than ever before. Officers still respond to all calls for help but the job does not end when the officer goes back in service. Whole chains of events play into the receipt of the call including an analysis of the call and its location and characteristics. Today's focus is on solving the problems indicated by the need to call the police in the first place. The ultimate goal is solving the problem and eliminating another visit by the police.

Recognizing that the police alone cannot stop crime or solve complex neighborhood problems, the citizens who live and work in the area are actively courted to partnership with the officers. Together they examine issues, develop responses, and assess the effectiveness of the different initiatives. Everyone's task is to create safe neighborhoods.

The North Patrol Command also provides police service to Hobby and Bush Intercontinental airports. Two patrol divisions were formed to help provide a safe environment for travelers and air transportation-related businesses. With two radio systems, a complex road grid, and airplane runways and taxiways controlled by federal governmental rules and regulations, the officer assigned to airport duty must truly be multi-task capable.

The North Patrol Command consists of 1,553 police officers, support personnel, supervisors, and managers working to provide a safe and better city for our citizens.



Assistant Chief J.W. DeFoor, North Patrol Command

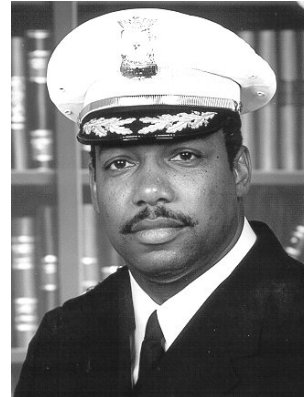
South Patrol Command

The South Patrol Command coordinates operations of the South Central, Clear Lake, Eastside, Westside, Southeast, Southwest, and Fondren patrol divisions.

The command office is a central distribution and collection point for all paperwork generated by each of its patrol divisions. Part of this administrative responsibility includes quality assurance, program creation and implementation, budgeting, and other functions to further the mission of the Houston Police Department.

The South Patrol Command divisions provide the department's most visible police service by responding to emergencies and citizens' calls for service. High-visibility patrol and traffic enforcement assists in suppressing criminal activity, reducing traffic accidents, and strengthening our police-community relationship. The South Patrol Command is comprised of approximately 1,600 employees.

I would like to thank all the men and women assigned to the South Patrol Command and commend you on your hard work and efforts. Rest assured that your role is making a difference in the quality of life for citizens in this city. With its diversity, today's patrol assignment can be challenging and rewarding. Since a patrol assignment is the most visible police service, all employees should be reminded to display the utmost in professionalism while performing their duties.



Assistant Chief C.A. McClelland, South Patrol Command

Chief's Column

The value of a good education can never be underestimated. That is why I encourage all employees of HPD to work towards a higher degree of education than when they first joined the department.

Since financial assistance can be a barrier towards furthering an education, the department developed a tuition reimbursement program for both classified and civilian employees. The Meet and Confer Agreement, effective September 1, 2001, states that officers shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for tuition and required fees related to educational courses at a college or university for course hours in an accredited college or university degree program in which an officer enrolls during his/her employment as an officer. Educational incentive pay was also included in the Agreement. I would encourage officers to read Articles 17 and 18 on page 29 of the Agreement to better understand what is available to them.

To be eligible for the tuition reimbursement program, civilian employees must have been employed full-time for the 12 months prior to the requested class with their two most recent Employee Performance Evaluations reflecting an *Effective* or higher rating. Courses must be related to the employee's current assignment and be consistent with civilian promotional ladders. For more information, please refer to Circular #00-1106-292.

Courses taken by officers or civilians must be completed at a college or university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Accredited correspondence courses from SACS schools are also eligible.

The 100 Club provides scholarships to full-time police officers for undergraduate and graduate degrees. The undergraduate scholarship program is available for degrees in criminal justice at Sam Houston State University, Prairie View A&M University, and at the University of Houston – Downtown Campus.

The two graduate degrees offered by The 100 Club are for a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice at



Sam Houston State University and a Master's in Business Administration at the University of Houston – Central Campus. For more information, contact Rick Hartley at The 100 Club at 713-952-0100.

Each year, more HPD employees are taking advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. Between February 1999 and August 2001, the number of officers holding bachelor's degrees went from 1,320 to 1,405; the number of officers holding master's degrees increased from 120 to 163; and the number of officers with doctorates went from 26 to 33.

I applaud each of you who have decided to further your career at HPD through a continuation of your education.

Bike Officer Recognized For Child Safety Program

Officer Jack Hanagriff (Central Patrol) recently received the Texas Safety Association's Railroad Section award for Outstanding Community Service for promoting child safety through the HPD Bicycle Transportation Safety Program's Pedestrian Safety Village. While

navigating the child-size streets of the village, youngsters are faced with 11 real-life traffic/pedestrian decisions. One area involves a railroad crossing where kids must decide where to cross and how to handle a crossing that is blocked by a stopped train. Officer Hanagriff

helped launch the program in 1995 when it became apparent that a pedestrian safety program designed for children was needed. To schedule the Pedestrian Safety Village in your community, contact Officer Hanagriff at 713-247-4514.

National Honors For Houston Police Officer

Officer Richard B. Perkins (Special Investigations) will receive a "TOP COP" award from the National Association of Police Organizations at an awards ceremony in

Washington, D.C. on October 25, 2001. Officer Perkins was chosen to receive the award as a result of his efforts in last year's Broken Circle Initiative to rid a Houston

neighborhood of gang activity. The initiative involved identifying gang members and using high-tech equipment to document them selling drugs to undercover officers.

Officers Help Make National Night Out Another Success

National Night Out was once again a success for the citizens of Houston and the Houston Police Department. This was the 16th year for Houston/Harris County to be a part of National Night Out. This year's event was held on the evening of August 7, and more than 63,700 people participated through neighborhood block parties, carnivals, parades, and barbecues. Officers canvassed their patrol areas in the weeks preceding National Night Out distributing flyers, posters, and other materials encouraging citizen participation. National Night Out 2001 proved that citizens and police can work together to reduce crime in Houston's neighborhoods.



Chief Bradford (right) enjoys a National Night Out party with (l.-r.) Houston Fire Chief Chris Connealy, Mayor Lee P. Brown, and Inwood Forest resident Mary Nus.

Numbers All Add Up For Our Budget Director

Budget and Finance Director Larry Yium has been nominated for the Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award, which is presented annually by the Association of Government Accountants.

The award is given to a local government professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government financial management and who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulation practices, policies, and systems.

It also recognizes those individuals in local government who consistently exhibit the highest personal and professional standards and whose outstanding leadership has led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems, or operations. Congratulations on your nomination, Mr. Yium!

Be A Sport . . . For A Day

The City of Houston's "Sports Day 2001" will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2001, at Tidwell Park at 9720 Spaulding.

"Sports Day 2001" is a day of friendly competition between City of Houston employees from the various city departments. This year, teams from each city department will compete against each other in tennis, basketball, softball, volleyball, and relay races.

In addition to the sports competitions, there will be displays for children. Employees are encouraged to invite family members to enjoy this day of family fun.

If you did not get a chance to sign up to participate in Sports Day, you are more than welcome to attend the festivities and support your HPD team members.

Mounted Patrol Shows Off Three New Crime Fighters

The Houston Police Department's Mounted Patrol recently received three new horses through donations from the law firm of Vinson & Elkins and the Houston Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association.

The two horses donated by the law firm are named, appropriately, "Vinson" and "Elkins."

"Vinson" was purchased from the Louisiana Prison System. "Vinson" is a light bay colored, five-year old Percheron/Thoroughbred gelding that stands 16 hands tall and is currently assigned to Officer Kimberly Land. "Vinson" and Officer Land are on patrol Wednesdays through Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"Elkins" was purchased from Ms. Donna McElmurray. "Elkins" is a black, seven-year-old Percheron gelding that stands 16.3 hands tall and is currently assigned to Officer Mark Thorson. "Elkins" and Officer Thorson are on patrol Mondays through Fridays during the dayshift.

The Houston Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association bought "Rowdy" from Mr. Ronnie Rombs. "Rowdy" is a chestnut colored, six-year-old Quarterhorse gelding that stands 15.3 hands tall and is currently awaiting assignment within the Mounted Patrol.



Vinson is on patrol Wednesdays through Saturdays.



Elkins works Mondays through Fridays.



Rowdy is currently awaiting assignment.

Preparations Begin For Texaco Grand Prix Bike Race

The Houston Police Department Bike Patrol will once again be participating in the Texaco/Havoline Grand Prix of Houston festivities by conducting two separate bike races on the official roadway. The Texaco/Havoline Grand Prix of Houston will be held the weekend of October 5 through October 7, 2001.

On Saturday, September 8, 2001, a qualifying time trial race was held on the Memorial Park Picnic Loop to select the 60 officers needed to represent HPD in October. Category I race finalists will consist of the 30 fastest officers department wide. Category II race finalists will consist of the next 12 fastest male officers and 3 fastest female officers as well as 15 patrol division positions. Officers also took part in an obstacle course competition. The time trial and obstacle course times are used to determine the patrol division to receive the "Chief's Trophy." Chief of Police C.O. Bradford awards this traveling trophy to the captain with the top scoring bike officers from the qualifying preliminary event.

The Texaco/Havoline Grand Prix – HPD Bike Challenge 2001 will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2001, at noon. Trophies will be presented to the fastest HPD bike officers in the winners' circle inside the George R. Brown Convention Center immediately following the races.